Message Text

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R 090835Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5226
INFO CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: XGDS-2; TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: CHINA HIGHLIGHTS, NO. 14

1. CHINA TO NORTH KOREA: PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION

AS THE U.S. CONTINUES TO ASSERT ITS INTENTION TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA, A RELATIVELY HIGH-LEVEL CHINESE MILITARY DELEGATION TRAVELED TO NORTH KOREA FROM MAY 20 - JUNE 4, APPARENTLY TO REINFORCE CHINESE DESIRES TO SEE THAT THE KOREAN

REUNIFICATION PROBLEM BE STTLED PEACEFULLY. CHINESE DELEGATION LEADER YANG YUNG CONSTANTLY REITERATED PRC SUPPORT FOR PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION, WHILE THE KOREANS APPEARED PURPOSELY TO REFER TO REUNIFICATION WITHOUT ANY QUALIFICATION -- INDICATING THAT THEY CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD PROBABLY LIKE A STRONGER SHOW OF SUPPORT FROM THE CHINESE. THE MOST MILITANT CHINESE FORMULATION WAS THE ASSERTION THAT SHOULD THE "U.S. IMPERIALIST" ATTACK, THE CHINESE WOULD FIGHT TOGETHER WITH NORTH KOREA AGAIN, FAIRLY STANDARD LANGUAGE FOR PRC-NORTH KOREAN GATHERINGS.

2. VIETNAMESE LEADERS VISIT CHINA

THE PEKING VISITS BY HIGH-LEVEL VIETNAMESE MILITARY AND POLITICAL LEADERS THIS WEEK APPEAR TO BE AN ATTEMPT BY HANOI TO BALANCE RECENT VISITS TO MOSCOW AND UROPE. HEY ALSO AFFORDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS BILATERAL ISSUES, INCLUDING THE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. GENERAL GIAP, WHO WAS SNUBBED BY THE CHINESE DURING A STOPOVER LAST MONTH, MET WITH ALL TOP PRC LEADERS. INCLUSION OF PLA GENERAL LOGISTICS AND ARMAMENT DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES IN THE TALKS SUGGEST SUBSTANTIVE TALKS ON MILITARY ISSUES. AS GIAP LEFT FOR HARBIN ON JUNE 7, VIETNAMESE PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG AND VICE PREMIER VO CHI CONG STOPPED IN PEKING ON THEIR WAY HOME FROM MOSCOW. THE PARTICIPATION OF THE VIETNAMESE MINISTER FOR OIL AND NATURAL GAS IN THEIR MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN HUA RAISES THE POSIBILITY THAT OIL EXPLORATION INTHE SOUTH CHINA SEA WAS DISCUSSED.

3. PEKING LAUDS MAY INDUSTRIAL PERFORMANCE

CHINA'S INDUSTRIAL PERFORMANCE DURING THE MONTH OF MAY SHOWED A MARKED INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS MONTH, ACCORDING TO A REPORT ISSUED BY THE STATE PLANNING COMMISSION ON 1 JUNE. SECTORS SHOWING SUBSTANTIAL GAINS OVER APRIL4S HIGH PERFORMANCE WERE STEEL, PIG IRON, COAL, CRUDE OIL, CHEMICAL FERTILIZER, AUTOMOBILES AND TRACTORS. IN THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR, RAILCAR LOADINGS INCREASED BY THREE PRECENT OVER APRIL -- REPORTEDLY REACHING THE HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE THE PRC WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1949. THESE CLAIMS SUPPORT COMMENTS BY A LOCAL NCNA REPORTER (HONG KONG 6033) THAT THE PRC ECONOMY CONFIDENTIAL

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IS DOING MUCH BETTER THAN EXPECTED AND THAT CHINA'S ECONOMIC OFFICIALS ARE REVISING THE CURRENT YEAR'S PLAN UPWARD TO REFLECT THE RAPID RATE OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY.
SULLIVAN

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